

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /069 W

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R 241049Z NOV 75

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1102

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 380

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: REACTION TO PROVISIONAL KILLING OF THREE SOLDIERS

1. PROVISIONAL IRA SOUTH ARMAGH HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR ATTACK ON HIDDEN ARMY OBSERVATION POST NEAR BORDER NOV. 22. TWELVE MEN SURROUNDED FOUR-MAN POST AND IN TWENTY MINUTE GUN BATTLE KILLED THREE SOLDIERS AND SERIOUSLY WOUNDED FOURTH.

2. PROTESTANT NEWSLETTER NOV. 24 CARRIED HEADLINE "WAVE OF FURY - REES ON RACK AFTER SLAUGHTER IN SOUTH ARMAGH." CATHOLIC IRISH NEWS HEADLINE: "REES STILL SET TO FREE ALL INTERNEES." THE REACTION OF SECRETARY OF STATE REES IN RADIO INTERVIEW CARRIED LOCALLY NOV. 24 WAS THAT PROVISIONAL CEASEFIRE NEVER HAD BEEN EFFECTIVE IN SOUTH ARMAGH. HE ALSO DEFENDED POLICY OF RELEASE AS HELPFUL IN ATTRACTING CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SUPPORT AWAY FROM PROVISIONALS.

3. SPECULATION ULSTER NOW CENTERS AROUND WHETHER CONSERVATIVE PARTY WILL CONTINUE SUPPORT BIPARTISAN POLICY ON NORTHERN IRELAND. SHADOW SPOKESMAN AIREY NEAVE HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT SECURITY SITUATION SOUTH ARMAGH EVEN BEFORE SATURDAY ATTACK AND ANOTHER CONSERVATIVE M.P. HAS STATED SECURITY MATTERS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN OUTSIDE

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SCOPE OF BIPARTISAN POLICY.

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Message Attributes

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